## **Valley Center Community Planning Group**

**Approved Minutes** for a regular meeting held on **July 8, 2024** at 7:00 p.m. in the Valley Center Community Hall, 28246 Lilac Road, Valley Center, California 92082. Delores Chavez Harmes, **Chair** | Dori Rattray, **Vice-Chair**; James Garritson, **Secretary** 

**A=**Absent; **Ab=**Abstention; **DRB=**Valley Center Design Review Board; **N=**Nay; **P=**Present; **R=**Recused; **VCCPG=**Valley Center Community Planning Group; **VCPRD=**Valley Center Parks & Recreation District; **Y=**Yea

Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88949827302?pwd=clkxDCBoEA8TE8QSoNboaSj1UMgP6r.1

#### A. Roll Call

- The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and a Quorum was established with 14
  members present. Michelle Bothof and Dori Rattray attended the meeting via Zoom. The
  Internet was unreliable tonight.
- Lisa Adams P
- Chris Barber P
- Michelle Bothof P\*
- Delores ChavezHarmes-P
- Vlad Ciupitu P

- Susan Fajardo P
- Michael Farrier P
- Iulia Feliciano P
- James Garritson P
- Steve Hutchison P
- Matt Matthews P
- LaVonne Norwood P
- Dori Rattray P\*
- Larry Schmidt A
- Kevin Smith P

## B. Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Harmes

C. Approval of May 13, 2024 Minutes. No meeting was held in June 2024.

- Motion: To approve the May 13, 2024 Minutes.
- Maker/Second: Harmes/Adams
- Motion Carries 14-0-0 (Y-N-Ab).

# D. Public Comments: Members of the public may address the Planning Group on any topic not on the agenda.

- Dianne Redding, a community member, shared concerns about private properties that are
  used to host events. The events often make use of large tents and have parties that are very
  loud. Events are hosted on Miller Road and Fruitvale. It is common for these events to occur
  on the weekends. She has called the sheriff, County Code Enforcement officials, and the
  offices of Brian Jones and Jim Desmond.
- There was discussion among members about how to end large parties that are occurring in Valley Center.
- Patrick Malloy asked a question about Star Valley County Park. He would like the County to consider adding pickle ball courts to the park when it's built. Chair Harmes and Ms.
   Norwood made the recommendation to share this information at a Parks and Recreation meeting.

- Ms. Norwood shared that the County of San Diego is holding a Public Access Plan meeting on Thursday, July 11. There was discussion about the location of the intergenerational center.
- Kathleen Lippit (Zoom Audience) shared concerns she has about groundwater usage when cannabis is grown in the community.

## 1. Solidarity Farms: Ellee Igoe, Director Foodshed Small Farm Cooperative

- Ellee introduced the Foodshed Small Farm Cooperative and her Keep Farming VC concept.
- Ellee encourages large organic farms on public lands. She shared multiple strategies, which included promoting agriculture commons and clustered housing on large properties.
- Mr. Hutchison shared that the County does encourage clustered housing and he likes the idea of promoting agriculture in Valley Center.
- There were questions asked about a number of properties in Valley Center.

#### 2. Institute for Public Strategies: Michelle Torby

 Michelle Torby from the Institute for Public Strategies was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

## E. Action items (VCCPG advisory vote may be taken on the following items)

- 1. Tree Removal & Clearing Lilac Road: Public works and traffic division have assessed the need for clearing a tree at 9543 W. Lilac Road. (Vote)
  - Motion: To approve the tree removal and clearing along Lilac Road.
  - Maker/Second: Hutchison/Ciupitu
  - Motion Carries 14-0-0 (Y-N-Ab)
- 2. Salem Christian Homes, Inc.: (Smith//Farrier) Major Use Permit requested to develop four, single story 10-bed full memory care skilled nursing facility (Major Impact Services and Utilities). Also includes administrative buildings and six one-bedroom lodges for visiting families. (Informational)
  - Chair Harmes shared a brief update about this major use permit.

## 3. VMT CEQA 15183 Exemption: Review of recent changes. (Informational)

- Mr. Smith shared that if a project was qualified under the older guidelines, it is still able to move forward.
- Chair Harmes will invite Damian from the County to answer questions about the VMT CEQA 15183 Exemption at the August meeting.

#### **F. Subcommittee Reports:**

## 1) Emergency Evacuation (Harmes):

• The Genasys program presentation will be at the Valley Center Library on August 1 at 6:30 p.m.

• The City of Escondido is looking at the option of having an additional emergency evacuation route through a section of Daley Ranch.

## 2) Cannabis Subcommittee (Mathews):

- Dr. Matthews shared that the County is asking for public comments about cannabis. The County will meet remotely on Friday, July 12 and will hold two additional meetings this month.
- Cannabis accumulates into the fat of the body and interrupts sleep and causes anxiety. Micro cannabis businesses are what the County will discuss this Friday, July 12.
- Ms. Adams shared information about a New York Times article that reported some of the negative outcomes of the cannabis industry.

#### 3) Parks & Rec/Trails (Norwood):

- Ms. Norwood shared that some community members have concerns of having an intergenerational center located at Star Valley Park, as it is not a walkable area of Valley Center.
- Ms. Norwood shared that the equestrian community in town have concerns about having locating an Intergenerational center at Star Valley Park. There is not enough room for both IGC & equestrian facilities. The location of Star Valley Park is also not walkable from anywhere in town. Other concerns were also shared.
- Dr. Matthews shared his concerns about the recent Valley Center Rodeo and the possibility that a pregnant mare was included in the event.
- Dr. Matthews shared his concerns about the recent Valley Center Rodeo and the possibility that there may have been a mare with her newly born foal, still breast-feeding being ridden in the Rodeo. Dr. Matthews also had concerns with the placement of the strapping on the mare.
- Billy Wagner (audience) shared that rodeo tickets were sold for \$25. He said that the Lakeside Rodeo is a four day event. He is looking to have an equestrian center that supports the Valley Center Vaqueros. Billy would like Star Valley Park to be utilized for the Valley Center Vaqueros.

## 4) CPU (Ciupitu):

- Mr. Ciupitu shared an update about a traffic light located at Ridge Ranch Road. For an individual to litigate this traffic light would cost an enormous amount of money.
- The hardening project on Cole Grade Road is postponed until 2027.

## 5) Mobility (Adams):

• Ms. Adams shared that the County is paving Fruitvale and Miller early in the morning.

#### 6) Revitalization Subcommittee (Rattray):

• No update, as the WiFi connection was unreliable tonight.

#### **Related Reports:**

## 1) Design Review Board (Smith/Adams):

No update.

#### 2) Tribal Liaison (Harmes):

No update.

## 3) Association of Planning Groups (Hutchison):

• SANDAG passed a \$1.3 billion budget for road improvements in San Diego. Most of the money will not be spent in the rural areas of San Diego County. There was discussion about the lack of a network of roads in South County.

## 4) Website (Garritson):

• No update.

## 5) Nominations & Board (Fajardo/Bothof):

No update.

## 6) Chamber/VCBA (Fajardo):

• Ms. Fajardo provided a brief comment about the chamber.

## G. Adjournment

- Next regular meeting of VCCPG: August 12, 2024 at 7 p.m.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.
- Minutes were approved on September 9, 2024.

James Garritson, Secretary